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BOROUGH AND PORT OF SANDWICH

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year

1954



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Mayor: Alderman J.G. Jezzard, J.P.

Chairman - Public Health Committee

CLR.

Alderman D.S. Pettet

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1.7.64

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector: G. T. Rowlands, C.R.S.I.

Public Health: Meat Inspector: W. F. Wilkinson, C.R.S.I.

Clerk: Miss E. V. Miles

Town Clerk: Barrie Roberts, Esq. Borough Treasurer: E. O. Jordan, B.E.M.

Medical Officer of Health: Malcolm S. Harvey, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.

Deputy M.O.H. Major General James Leslie Gordon, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

The Borough of Sandwich 1964.

To His Worship the Mayor (Alderman J. G. Jezzard, J.P.)
Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sandwich

I have the honour to present the report on Sandwich 1964.

The population of Sandwich in mid-1964 rose by 4% to 4,620 and the births again outnumbered the deaths, but only just. Thus the main increase in population was by movement into the Borough. The local population has a disproportionate number of elderly persons which depresses the birth rate and exaggerates the death rate. Thus the 65 births represented a birth rate of 14 per 1,000 population compared to the national rate of 18.4 per 1,000. The Registrar's correction factor of 1.18 which corrects for the age distribution in a population does no more than correct the birth rate for comparison to 16.6 per 1,000, still well below the national level.

The 62 deaths in 1964 represent an uncorrected death rate of 13.42 per 1,000 population (England and Wales 11.3). Balancing this against the preponderance of elderly (factor 0.70) gives a death rate of 9.4 per 1,000, which suggests that longevity is a reason for some of the population growth rather than fertility. This is confirmed by the finding that 58% of the deaths occurred in those over 75 years of age.

There were only 2 infant deaths both in the neonatal period, the first 4 weeks of life.

The incidence of notifiable infectious disease was low. Throughout the year only 4 cases of measles, 6 of whooping cough, 1 of scarlet fever and 1 case of respiratory tuberculosis were notified.

During October and November the Mass Radiography Unit visited the Borough and set up at the Drill Hall for attendance of the public, as well as carrying out visits to the industrial estate at Richborough, and to Sir Roger Manwood's School. The attendance at the public sessions dropped 12% on that of the previous visit, reaching only a total of 856, or about 20% of those over school age. No person is too old to benefit from a routine chest x-ray and all adults are welcomed. There was an excellent response from the industrial area where 2,357 persons attended; and 198 scholars, teachers and non-teaching staff attended from Sir Roger Manwood's School.

There follow details on the public health inspection of the Borough,

Water Supply.

All dwellings in the Borough (1621) are supplied by the public water mains and a water point is available on the Town Quay for mains water supply to any craft visiting the Port. Samples were taken on 25 occasions using the sampling points at the Quay, Sandwich Primary School and at Richborough Road (by Pfizers). All samples taken were satisfactory and showed no bacterial growth. The chemical analysis of the local water was given in the report for 1963 and there has been no change in the source of supply which is from the Woodnesborough well distributed by Thanet Water Board.

Swimming Baths.

Six check samples were made on the swimming bath water at the Primary School and it was found that a safe level of chlorination was being maintained.

Sewerage

The Town sewers discharge into the River Stour untreated. The Council gave full attention to schemes for treatment before discharge to the river or disposal direct to deep sea after comminution. A decision on the choice of scheme had not been reached at the end of 1964, as consultants were still investigating the factors in seaward disposal. A site suitable for a sewage treatment works was reserved adjoining the river.

Refuse Disposal

In view of the limited life of the Ash Road refuse tip consideration was given to alternative locations or methods of disposal. The Ash Road tip while improved in maintenance and coverage is purposeless controlled tipping as there seems no aim in view for eventual use of the land, although it will result in a plateau above flood level which in a decade could provide a suitable site for agricultural building. A service of weekly collection of household refuse is provided. A paper sack pilot scheme was planned.

Public Conveniences

The Millwall convenience was closed down. There remain the Cattle Market convenience of good standard when vandalism permits, and the conveniences on the Town Quay. A new unit at Cow Leas was planned.

Housing

The programme of routine housing inspection and recording was continued. On both visits on complaint and as a routine 438 inspections were made. A total of 222 houses were recorded as to conditions found following the same number of inspections for the purpose.

Two dwellings were found to be unfit for human habitation and 25 dwellings were found to be not in all respects fit for habitation. In all 23 dwellings were rendered fit by informal action.

In the case of 4 houses closing orders were made and 2 closing orders were withdrawn on the houses being rendered fit.

No clearance areas were represented during the year, but action taken on a previous representation of seven houses contemplated their purchase by the Council subject to the usual negotiations, with a view to possible preservation.

There were no recorded cases of overcrowding.

Rehousing of families in unfit houses was slowed down by the absence of completion of any new council houses and a paucity of casual vacancies in existing council houses.

Improvement of Houses

No standard grants were applied for, but 13 discretionary grants were made amounting to £2,523 towards a total cost of £7,279.

Rent Act Certificates

None was applied for.

Caravans.

There is one holiday caravan site in the Borough registered for 50 caravans. Temporary permission for the winter of 1964/65 only was given for 14 caravans, and a determination of this permission thereafter was intended.

Other Environmental Matters

Surface water flooding caused trouble in two locations in the Borough. In one case the problem appeared to be associated with dyke drainage and the Rivers Board helped to resolve it.

In the other case the trouble arose from silting and overflow of a sewer heavily charged by new development. Other faults were found in the sewer on subsequent investigation and after the cleansing, descaling and rectification of the fault in the sewer, flooding on heavy rainfall did not occur.

No action was required under the Clean Air legislation, or for the control of Noise Nuisance.

The concentration of industries in the Loop Street locality with potential smell problems receives regular supervision.

The main factory area in Richborough gave no trouble from atmospheric pollution or other difficulties.

Factory Inspections (Factories Act 1961)

	On Register	Inspected	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 are enforced by Local Authority.	1	1	-
(ii) Other Factories in which Section 7 enforceable by L.A.	37	22	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 enforceable by L.A.	1	1	-
Total	39	24	-

No defects were referred to the Factory Inspector by the Local Authority or vice versa.

Outworkers. There were 22 outworkers making paper receptacles. No default in sending in lists came to notice.

Food Supervision

There were 63 food premises in the Borough of which 25 were registered under Section 16, including 3 butchers making sausages.

A total of 142 inspections were made to food sales and food preparation premises, including 28 visits to premises serving meals or prepared snacks, 8 to bakehouses and 30 to butchers shops.

Statutory proceedings under Food Hygiene Regulations were not taken in any cases, but improvements depended on informal pressure.

Milk.

There are 2 registered milk distributors and 2 registered dairies. 38 milk samples were taken. 3 failed the keeping quality test, but in 1 the shade temperature was too high. No action was required under Section 20 Milk and Dairies Regulations 1959.

Ice Cream

No premises manufacture ice cream. Twenty two premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream. Eight samples were taken, all returned as Grade I.

Meat

There is one private Slaughterhouse. This kills for a wide area of supply. Meat inspection is maintained at 100%. There is no killing of horses in the Borough, and no knackers yard.

Animals slaughtered in 1964 -

Cattle (incl. cows)	3,556	
Calves	683	
Sheep	9,530	
Pigs	14,114	Total 27,883

This was a slight decline on preceding years mainly due to a slight reduction in the number of pigs and calves. The number of cattle including cows was nevertheless the highest for six years at least, and these carcasses need most time for inspection.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed(if known)	2667	889	683	9530	14114	Nil
Number inspected	2667	889	683	9530	14114	Nil
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	5	2	77	20	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	135	314	2	540	945	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci	5.17	35.88	0.29	6.47	6.12	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	111	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.78	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	-	-	-	-

Pest Control

Fifty-seven houses, two agricultural holdings and 37 business premises were treated for rats during 1964 and full bating of sewers was carried out.

Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare Provisions) Act 1956

The market gardens were checked for arrangements made for the pickers. No formal action was required.

National Assistance Act, Section 47.

In two cases the help of the Medical Officer of Health was sought to achieve acceptance of hospital admission. The use of statutory powers was contemplated. In one case of an 85 year old woman, grotesque scarring and erosion of the face by rodent ulcer created the problem of scunner in those who would help and the old lady's cantankerous resentment of her own self and the world in general. Despite this the help was sufficient to dispel any suggestion of inadequate care and attention and no statutory action was taken.

The other case was a woman of 76 with a very incapacitated husband, who herself suffered from thyroid insufficiency with resultant lassitude and unwillingness to leave the fireside. Hospital admission was accepted after one visit from the Medical Officer of Health to explain his duty in the matter. Recovery from her condition was rapid but unfortunately her heart failed under the change.

Vital and Morbid Statistics for 1964

The area of the Borough remained at 2137 acres.

Population Mid-1964 - 4620 persons.

Live Births - 65 Illegitimate 4 (6%)

Male Births - 35 Female - 30 Stillbirths - Nil

Birth rate - 14 per 1,000 population (Adjusted 16.8)
England and Wales 18.4

Perinatal Mortality rate - 15 per 1,000 live and stillbirths

Deaths - 62 Male 30 Female 32 Infant deaths 2

Death rate: 13.4 per 1,000 population (adjusted 9.4)
England and Wales 11.3

Age at Death	Under 1 wk.	-4 wks	- 1 yr	-15 yrs	--34	-44	-54	-64	-74	75+	Total
Male	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	7	18	30
Female	1	1	-	-	-	1	4	2	5	18	32
Total	1	1	-	1	-	1	5	5	12	36	62

Causes of death 1964	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Cancers - Lung & Bronchus	2	1	3
Other Malignant, Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	6	13
Vascular lesions of Nervous System	2	2	4
Coronary disease, Angina	6	2	8
Other Heart disease	1	7	8
Other circulatory disease	3	1	4
Pneumonia	-	3	3
Bronchitis	5	-	5
Other diseases of Resp. System	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis, Nephrosis	1	1	2
Other defined or ill defined diseases	1	6	7
All other accidents other than motor accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	1	-	1
Totals	30	32	62

While bronchitis and pneumonia were the friends of the elderly with five out of the eight deaths in those over 75, cancer of the lung and bronchus, and coronary disease were the enemies of those in the prime years between 55 and 65 when the fruits of life's harvest, with its respect and responsibilities are being enjoyed. Two-thirds of the lung cancers and half the cases of coronary disease struck in that decade.

Infectious Diseases

Quarterly Incidence	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Scarlet Fever	1	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	4	2	-	-	6
Measles	-	-	1	3	4
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	-	-	-	1

Food Poisoning

While no cases of food poisoning were notified a family infection with *Salmonella typhimurium* came to our notice. It involved two children admitted to hospital with an acute febrile enteritis. The source of infection was not identified.

Port health control.

A separate port health report was submitted early in 1965, but it may be noted that the work in this field is declining and that only 16 coastwise landings were made at the port by a small number of vessels. Five inspections were carried out by the port health inspector. No cases of infectious disease occurred on ships and the medical officer was not called on to visit any vessel.

MALCOLM S. HARVEY

Medical Officer of Health

